

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NP

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 18 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SPOKESMAN FOR POLISH ICCS DELEGATION AT SAIGON  
SAYS TRANSLATOR HOLUB WHO ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM  
IN US EMBASSY ON MONDAY IS MENTALLY ILL AND "IN  
NEED OF TREATMENT FROM HIS DOCTOR." GVN GRANTS  
PROTECTION TO HOLUB, IS CONSIDERING HIS REQUEST  
FOR ASYLUM (UPI, NYDN). TWICE-JAILED NEUTRALIST  
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"THIRD FORCE" LEADER MRS. NGO BA THANH ELECTED FIRST

WOMAN MEMBER OF INT COMMISSION OF JURISTS. COMMISSION, WITH GENEVA HEADQUARTERS, DESCRIBES ITSELF AS "INTERNATIONAL NONPOLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF LAWYERS PLEDGED TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS" (KREBS, NYT). SVN AND VC SPOKESMEN SAY GVN CANCELS ALL HELICOPTER TRIPS BY COMMUNISTS, EFFECTIVELY ISOLATING 200 VC IN CAMP OUTSIDE SAIGON (UPI, BALTO N-A 4/17).

2. MIL SOURCES SAY 506 COMMUNISTS, 61 ARVN KIA IN TWO-DAY BATTLE AROUND GVN RANGER BASE IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS (UPI, BALTO N-A 4/17). SAIGON COMMAND REPORTS 2000 COMMUNIST AND GVN SOLDIERS KIA OR WIA IN TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING ALONG INFILTRATION ROUTES IN HIGHLANDS. COMMAND ALSO SAYS TWO NVA REGIMENTS

WITH ARTILLERY SUPPORT ATTACKED 19 MILES SOUTH OF PLEIKU, ADDS THAT REDS USED TOXIC GAS (CHITRIB). MIL SOURCES SAY VNAF JETS POUND COMMUNIST BASE AT DAK TO IN HIGHLANDS IN REPRISAL FOR OVERRUNNING GVN POST EARLIER THIS WEEK. SOURCES SAY DAK TO CHOSEN BECAUSE INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY BEING BROUGHT THERE THAT COULD HIT PLEIKU'S OUTER DEFENSES (PETERSON, REUTER SAIGON).

3. COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN CAMBODIA DROP SHARPLY BECAUSE OF HEAVY RAIN (CHITRIB). NVN NEWS AGENCY QUOTES NHAN DAN THAT US SENDS MORE MIL ADVISERS AND AID TO GKR, "HAS NOT GIVEN UP ITS POLICY OF AGGRESSION" AND US EMBASSY REMAINS "MASTER-MIND BEHIND ALL THE MIL PLANS AND ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA." PAPER ACCUSES US OF PLANNING TO BRING IN MORE MIL ADVISERS "TO TAKE DIRECT COMMAND", SEES "INCREASING INTERVENTION" AS CHALLENGE TO INDOCHINA PEOPLE AND A SLIGHT TO CONGRESS (REUTER HK).

4. NVN NEWS AGENCY QUOTES NHAN DAN DENUNCIATION OF DECISION TO REDUCE CALLEY SENTENCE AS PROVING "HYPOCRITICAL" ATTITUDE OF NIXON ADMIN AND "HOSTILITY" TOWARDS VIET AND OTHER INDOCHINESE PEOPLE AT TIME WHEN US "VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT SERIOUSLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY BY UNCLASSIFIED

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HELPING THE SAIGON ADMIN IN ITS CRIMINAL ACTS..." (REUTER HK).

CHINA

5. UPI (HK) REPORTS DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAYING BRUCE (US "AMBASSADOR TO CHINA" -- NYDN), WHO WENT TO CHINA LESS THAN YEAR AGO "WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND HIGH

HOPES," IS FRUSTRATED AND UNHAPPY THERE AND WANTS TO LEAVE SOON AS HE CAN (WP). BRUCE'S FEELING REPORTEDLY NOT BASED ON ANY DECLINE IN SINO-US RELATIONS -- ALTHOUGH, SOURCES CONTEND, THERE DEFINITELY HAS BEEN "COOLING" IN RELATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS -- BUT HE DESIRES RETURN HOME FOR VARIETY OF REASONS. HIS AGE IS ONE FACTOR, AND HE FINDS PEKING DULL AND RESTRICTIVE -- ONE DIPLOMAT QUOTES BRUCE SAYING PEKING IS "NOT HIS KIND OF TOWN-" MORE IMPORTANT THAN THESE PERSONAL REASONS IS MATTER OF PROFESSIONAL PRIDE, ACCORDING WELL-PLACED DIPLOMATS IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND PEKING. BRUCE FEELS HIS PRESENCE IN CHINA IS NOT NECESSARY NOW, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HIS LACK OF ACCESS TO TOP PRC LEADERS. HAK HAS HANDLED ALL TOP-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH PEKING, AND INDICATIONS ARE HE WILL CONTINUE DOING SO. BRUCE SAID TO FEEL

HOLDRIDGE AND JENKINS COULD AND SHOULD HANDLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOW-LEVEL OFFICIALS; THEY ARE CHINA SPECIALISTS, HE IS NOT. BRUCE HAS ALSO BEEN CUT OUT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC SOCIAL CIRCLE; BECAUSE US LACKS FULL-FLEDGED EMBASSY IN PEKING, HE AND OTHER USLO MEMBERS DO NOT RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO FORMAL DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS. BEFORE RETURNING TO PEKING RECENTLY, BRUCE MADE KNOWN HE WANTS OUT. DOS OFFICIALS, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING HAK, ASKED THAT HE STAY ON LONGER FOR DIPLOMACY'S SAKE. BRUCE AGREED TO STAY, BUT NOT FOR LONG (CHITRIB, NYDN, BALTO N-A, APRIL 17, PHINQ).

6. NYPOST (APR. 17) NOTES TENG HSIAO-P'ING DEPARTED TUESDAY NIGHT FOR CHINA AFTER ATTENDING SEVERAL SESSIONS OF GA.

7. JOC (HK) REPORTS THAT POSTERS DETAILING EXECUTIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF 30 PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH ANTI-CONFUCIUS-LIN PIAO CAMPAIGN WERE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED AROUND CANTON IN PLACES WHERE VISITORS TO FAIR WOULD BE LIKELY TO SEE THEM. RECALLS THAT OFFICIALS OF CANTON REGION TOLD CORRESPONDENTS AT LAST TRADE FAIR THAT CHINA'S EXECUTION METHOD IS BY PUBLIC SHOOTING, WITH FORMER LANDLORDS AND CAPITALISTS INVITED "TO SET AN EXAMPLE." SUN'S WU, IN HK, REPORTS OBSERVERS THERE PUZZLED BY REPORTED EXECUTIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT IN KEEPING WITH KNOWN POLICY REGARDING CONDUCT OF LIN-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN. THAT POLICY CALLED FOR UNITY AND EDUCATION RATHER THAN SUPPRESSIVE MEASURES WHEN IT REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED DIFFERENCE OF THE TWO KINDS OF CONTRADICTIONS AND THE CORRECT HANDLING OF CONTRADICTIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE. NOTES THAT ABSENCE OF HK-BASED FOREIGN

CORRESPONDENTS AT CANTON FAIR AND FAILURE OF CONGEN HK TO RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO FAIR ARE ALSO DEPARTURES FROM PAST CHINESE PRACTICES.

8. CSM CANTON DISPATCH NOTES BUYERS VISITING TRADE FAIR SAYING SOME PRICES ARE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN LAST NOVEMBER. SOME CHEMICALS REPORTED UP 300 PERCENT, TRADE GOODS AND BASKETWARE 8-10 PERCENT HIGHER, AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS RANGE FROM UNCHANGED TO 5 PERCENT UP. BUT NO FIRM TREND YET APPARENT.

9. BOSTON H-A (APRIL 15) CITES REP. WOLFF SAYING SUNDAY THAT PRC IS REFUSING TO HELP OTHER NATIONS CONTROL ILLEGAL WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN AND OPIUM. WOLFF WARNED THAT IF PEKING DOES NOT CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE,

HE WILL FIGHT AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO GRANT MFN STATUS. WOLFF CITED CHINA'S FAILURE TO JOIN "A SINGLE CONVENTION AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE" IN THE UN DRIVE AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF DRUGS.

10. CHITRIB CITES FORD CO. EXECUTIVE SAYING THERE HAVE BEEN "VERY LIMITED CONVERSATIONS" BETWEEN IT AND PRC BUT NOTHING MUCH OF SUBSTANCE HAS RESULTED, ALTHOUGH FORD WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TRADE WITH CHINA. NCNA WELCOMES CURRENT "FRIENDLY" VISIT TO CHINA BY BRAZILIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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TRADE DELEGATION (WP). JOC'S STRAUSS, IN HK, CITES NEW PRC CLAIMS OF SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS THAT APPEAR TO INDICATE "FAIRLY RAPID PROGRESS."

JAPAN

11. SEC. BUTZ, IN TOKYO, SAYS US CUTOFF OF SOYBEAN EXPORTS LAST SUMMER WAS "SERIOUS MISTAKE AND I ADMIT IT FREELY." ADDS THAT DECISION WAS MADE UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURES GENERATED BY SHORTAGES IN DOMESTIC MARKET, AND THAT JAPANESE REACTION "TAUGHT US THAT WE SHOULD NEVER DO IT  
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